

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Change the TITLE of the application to: "GAMING MACHINE WITH A LIGHT GUIDING PLATE SUBJECTED TO A LIGHT SCATTERING PROCESS AND HAVING A LIGHT DEFLECTION PATTERN".

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Claims 3 & 8-10 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: A thorough search for prior art fails to disclose any reference or references, which taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest, in combination with the other limitations, a gaming machine comprising an illumination unit, liquid crystal display device and variable display device, "wherein the light guiding plate has a back surface side and a front surface side and has a light deflection pattern formed on the back surface side for guiding light emitted from the illumination unit towards the liquid crystal panel".

The prior art fails to disclose a light guiding plate, in specific combination with the other limitations, to have a light deflection pattern formed on a back surface side for guiding light emitted from the illumination unit towards the liquid crystal panel. Consequently, in combination with the other limitations, the prior art as a whole fails to teach or suggest a light guiding plate being formed with a light deflection pattern on the back surface for guiding light from the light emission body into the liquid crystal

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panel, wherein the light guiding plate further includes cutouts or recesses opposed to the variable display device (reels), wherein end faces of the cutouts or recesses are configured for and subjected to a light scattering process.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

CONCLUSION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MILAP SHAH whose telephone number is (571)272-1723. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 9:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Melba Bumgarner can be reached on (571) 272-4709. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

/Melba Bumgarner/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3717

/MBS/